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Deitch, Sky, "Relating Art and the Community: A Summer at the Worcester Art Museum" (2021).
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RELATING ART AND THE COMMUNITY: A SUMMER AT THE WORCESTER ART MUSEUM

sky deitch | WinterFest 2021 | Clark University

This Summer, I served as the curatorial intern for the Worcester Art Museum. Adapting to a remote museum environment, I assisted in the WAM Around the World social media campaign, carried out independent research including publishing an investigation into colonoliasm and cartography (a snippet is featured below) and racism in curatorial affairs (the title slide is at right).

Racism in Curatorial Affairs

*an education and advocacy-based guide on confronting systemic
discrimination in art curation*

Skylar Deitch
Worcester Art Museum
July 2020

Mapping the “New World”

Across browning edges and intertwining mountain ranges, an inscription proclaims “Americasepten” (North America in Latin) on the top of the *Map of American Eastern Seaboard from Chesapeake Bay to Penobscot Bay*, within the Worcester Art Museum’s map collection. Illustrated with regional trees, livestock, and riverways, the artistic value of the historical map is anything but lost.



Fig. 1. John Ogilby (Scottish, 1600–1676) and Arnoldus Montanus (Dutch, about 1625–about 1683), *After Map of American Eastern Seaboard from Chesapeake Bay to Penobscot Bay*, after 1670, engraving with stipple engraving and hand coloring on paper. Bequest of Robert Dudley Harrington Revocable Trust, 2017.82

Working under the assistant to the director of curatorial affairs, I was able to get an unfiltered perspective on the work behind the exhibitions. With the internship remaining remote for the duration of the Summer, I was able to join Zoom team meetings for other areas of the museum, allowing me to gain knowledge of museum functions outside of curation. Being able to carry out my own independent research in addition to assisting several teams, I was thoroughly able to gain museum experience as well as grow my personal interests.

I am grateful to have been granted the opportunity from the museum, and the financial support from Clark.